December 22, 2004

Mr. Richard Gooch
Regional Candidate Conservation Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Mr. Gooch:

You will find enclosed a summary of the conservation actions conducted during 2004 for the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Robust Redhorse, *Moxostoma robustum*, Ocmulgee River, Georgia, as described in Agreement Number 1448-40181-01-K-005.

This report summarizes activities conducted during 2004 in fulfilling the first phase of the CCAA. Specific activities addressed include stocking the project site (Conservation Action 1), studying the movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse (Conservation Action 2) and, monitoring the abundance and distribution of introduced robust redhorse (Conservation Action 3).

Please contact me at 404-799-2112 if you have further questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Mike Nichols
Environmental Laboratory Manager
Georgia Power Company

MCN/mcn

December 21, 2004
CCAA 2004 progress report
1448-40181-01-12-005

XC:
With 2004 progress report

Jimmy Evans, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Sandy Tucker, US Fish and Wildlife Service (Athens)
Ross Self, Chairman Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee
Eileen Moorehead, Troutman Sanders
John Biagi, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Mike Harris, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Chuck Huling, Georgia Power
Chris Womack, Georgia Power
Jimmy Helms, Georgia Power
Wanda Greene, Georgia Power

2004 Progress Report: Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Robust Redhorse, *Moxostoma robustum*, Ocmulgee River, Georgia

Agreement Number 1448-40181-01-K-005

This report summarizes activities conducted during 2004 in fulfilling the first phase of the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for the Ocmulgee River (CCAA) for the robust redhorse, Ocmulgee River, Georgia. Specific activities addressed include stocking the project site (Conservation Action 1), studying the movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse (Conservation Action 2) and monitoring the abundance and distribution of introduced robust redhorse (Conservation Action 3).

Conservation Action 1. *Georgia DNR will stock the Project Site with approximately 4,000 hatchery-reared robust redhorse fingerlings each year for five years*.

Georgia DNR stocked 2,594 phase I robust redhorse at the Lloyd Shoals ramp and 304 at the Hwy 83 boat ramp (total of 2,898 for the Ocmulgee River in 2004). This number was selected based on Anthony Fiumera's recommendation for the 2004 crossings in order to maximize the effective population size for the Ocmulgee River (J. Evans, personnel communication).

Conservation Action 2. *Georgia Power will fund two surveys, one in year 1 (2002) and one in year 3 (2004) on the movement of introduced juvenile robust redhorse.*

Implementation of the second telemetry study is planned for 2005 and depends on the availability of robust redhorse of suitable size from the 2002 or 2004 year classes.

Conservation Action 3. *Georgia Power will conduct or fund five surveys in order to monitor abundance and distribution of juvenile and adult robust redhorse within Project Site.*

An electro-fishing survey was conducted by Georgia Power biologists May 3, 2004 on the Ocmulgee River from Ocmulgee WMA boat ramp below Magnolia up to Westlake (between Warner Robbins and Hawkinsville) for spawning adults or previously introduced robust redhorse. No robust redhorse were collected during 201 minutes of peddle time (active electro-fishing time).

An electro-fishing survey was conducted December 20, 2004 on the Ocmulgee River from the boat landing below Lloyd Shoals Dam down to the beginning of the shoals at the Highway 16 Bridge. This survey was conducted one week after Georgia DNR introduced approximately 2,600 phase I fingerlings at the boat landing. Four fingerlings (range from 125 to 146 mm TL) were collected immediately upstream from the lower shoals and one larger robust redhorse (510 mm TL) was collected approximately 50 meters above the shoals along the west bank. The larger individual had been used for the radio-telemetry study and appeared to be in good condition. Ninety-nine minutes of peddle time were devoted to this survey. Additional surveys are planned for early 2005 in the Highway 16 shoal area in an attempt to locate recently introduced fingerlings.

We have completed the second of five status surveys under Conservation Action 3 and collected a total of five introduced robust redhorse during 2004.

Mike Nichols
Environmental Laboratory Manager
Georgia Power Company